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**City to plant trees to help prevent dyke, bank erosion**

HCM CITY — The city Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Control and Prevention is soliciting opinions on a tree-planting project that would help prevent erosion of river and canal banks, as well as sea dykes.

The project, to be implemented during the 2010-15 period, will be submitted to the municipal People's Committee for approval.

More than 200,000 trees would be planted along 53km of river and canal banks in the outlying districts of Thu Duc, 12, Binh Thanh, Cu Chi and Binh Chanh this year.

During the 2011-15 period, the city will plant additional 810,000 trees along 112km of sea dykes, river and canal banks in the coastal district of Can Gio, and the outlying districts of Nha Be, Thu Duc, 12, Binh Thanh, Cu Chi and Binh Chanh. The project, which is mapped out by the city Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, will cost VND10 billion (US\$520,000).

Tree species to be planted include ban chua (*Sonneria caseolaris*), dua nuoc (*Nypa fruitican*), go nuoc (*Intsia bijuga*), gao vang (*Nauclea orientalis*), nhac ngua nuoc (*Amoora cucullate*) and tram chua (*Melaleuca cabujuti*).

These species, which can thrive in water, have a strong root system that helps prevent soil erosion.

City officials said the project was being undertaken because of the general ineffectiveness of various flood prevention programmes, on which the city had spent more than VND200 billion (\$10.5 million) each year since 2008. — VNS



The Nhieu Loc-Thi Nghe Canal in Binh Thanh District in HCM City. A project to plant more than 200,000 trees along the river and canal banks in outlying districts will be submitted to the city to help prevent erosion. — VNA/VNS Photo Dinh Hue